

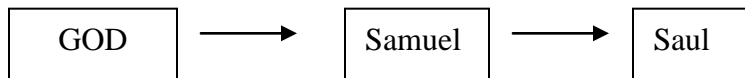
### **The Tales of Kings**

Source: Collins, *Introduction to Hebrew Bible*, Chapter 11 – 13, pp. 217 – 253

United Kingdom: Saul, David, Solomon: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 3 – 16 as told by “D” editors

Samuel and Kings were originally 2 books not 4. Changed with the Greek translation. Samuel is one scroll in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Greek text longer than Hebrew text.

1 Sam deals with the transition from Judges to Monarchy.



The selection of a human king is taken as a rejection of YHWH's rule

1 Sam 1:1 – 4:1 a

Who is the star of the Story?

Story of Hannah – Song of Hannah – What is the theology? 1 Sam 2

Sam's birth is linked to Judges via Eli. E's sons are bums.

1 Sam 7 – 12

Sam takes over for Eli. People reject King YHWH.

Saul election

1. Saul loses donkeys. Runs into Sam. Sam anoints as King

2. Chosen by lot – formal method of discerning the Divine

Saul victory over Ammonites – people make him King at Gilgal

1 Sam 13 – 15

Trials of Saul. Didn't follow commandments = disobedience

Clashes with Sam over theology with Saul.

Sam tells Saul to wipe out Amalek, Saul spares king, makes Sam mad.

1 Sam 16 – 2 Sam 1 – 5

Reads like a historical novel rather than a chronicle like book of Kings.

David is human king not divine.

2 versions of election

1. picked out as skill of musician, helps Saul with playing, Saul has an evil spirit from the Lord.

2. David fights Goliath.

Rivalry develops. David leaves despite being best friends with Jonathan, Saul's son. David marries Saul's daughter Merab but M leaves David when Saul relationship becomes strained.

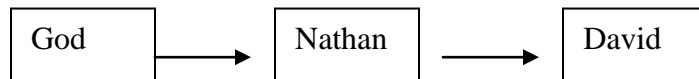
1 Sam 19-24 could be read as apologetic for David usurping the throne.

David becomes outlaw & extortionist victim is Nabal.

David become mercenary for Philistines but at last moment did not have to fight Israel.

Saul and Jonathan die at end of 1 Sam where Saul has lost it all and falls on sword.

David mourns Saul. Become king of Judah in Hebron while Ishbaal son of Saul is king of Israel. Murder by D's general and D become king also of Israel. Take Jerusalem from Canaanites and place Ark of Covenant as symbol of YHWH's presence.



David is told that he can not build a house for God but his son will. Provides promise for Davidic Dynasty.

Nathan Oracle in 2 Sam 7 is controversial:

- David is viewed as a prince of God rather than King
- Assumes David's origin as a shepherd
- On the other hand, promise of kingdom lasting forever is unconditional where most covenants are conditional.
- Regardless- oracle establishes what some call the Davidic covenant.
- Some would say that the 400-year rule of the House of David is not forever.
- Relationship between YHWH and king is that to father and son. 2 Sam 7:14
- Viewed a son of God but not begotten of God – still human

2 Sam 8 & 10

Describe the conquests of David around the surrounding area

David credited in ending conflict with Philistines

Scholars question the historic accuracy

### Bathsheba Affair

D sees B, arranges for assassination of husband Uriah, D marries B.  
Nathan confronts. D is a sinner. First child of relationship dies.

### 2 Sam 13 – 20

Family saga of relationship between David and Absalom.

Amnon rapes Tamar – David's daughter, Absalom revenge kills Amnon,  
Absalom creates civil war when David is mourning son. Absalom go to  
battle and gets caught by tree and is killed.

Story put David in favorable light. Story is human intervention without  
much God.

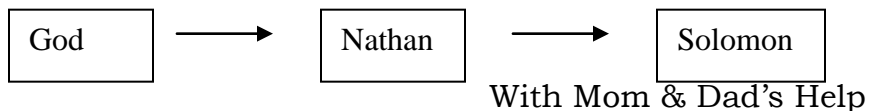
Close of 2 Sam depicts David as skillful musician and composer  
Accounts show David as fully human and fully fallible.

### 1 Kings 1 – 16

David fades, Solomon accession and reign.

Source of book of Kings is “the book of the acts of Solomon” & “annuals  
of kings of Judah” – these have not survived.

“D” editors use formula to describe kings= in the year of X of <Proper  
Name>, king of Judah, <Proper Name> the son of <Proper Name> began  
to reign over all Israel and Samaria and reigned for X years. He did what  
was evil in the sight of YHWH.



1 Kings 1 –2: Adonijah ties to take over for David. But Solomon has  
support of his mom – Bathseba, Nathan and David. Promise of  
everlasting dynasty dependent on actions and lifestyle of rulers in  
relation to YHWH.

1 Kings 3 – 11: Solomon reign described as golden age. S excelled  
in riches and wisdom. Creates many alliances via marriage. Becomes a  
builder of palaces and the Temple. Create international trade with  
neighbors.

Wisdom of Solomon is hallmark. Book of Proverbs attributed to him.  
Kings wise, S was greater in wisdom. Dream of asking for wisdom, 2  
women and child, chapter 5 points to extensive knowledge and wisdom.

Idolatry of Solomon condemned by “D” editors – had to keep wives happy so built them temples for Moabite and Ammonite deities. “D” shows the enemies that YHWH raised up against S because of this. This is why united monarchy did not remain. Not taken away entirely but divided 10 tribes and 2 in 922 BC.